



ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD
Hydrometrics, Inc.®
consulting scientists, engineers, and contractors

ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

OCT 11 2001

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October 10, 2001


1195957 - R8 SDMS

Mr. Scott Brown
Remedial Project Manager
East Helena Site
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region VIII, Montana Operations Office
Federal Building - Drawer 1009
301 South Park
Helena, MT 59626-0026

RE: Biannual Sampling at the Asarco East Helena Smelter

Dear Scott,

Hydrometrics has tentatively scheduled the Asarco Post RI groundwater and surface water sampling for November 5th through November 19, 2001. Starting with this next sampling event, a couple of sampling protocol changes will be implemented. These include:

- Replacing the bladder pump with a Grunfos 2" submersible pump - the bladder pump has been generally used for RI/FS wells with a static water level greater than 60'. The bladder pump has, however, become increasingly difficult to decontaminate. Replacing it with the Grunfos pump should reduce equipment blank contamination, by reducing the number of analytical detects measured in the rinsate collected after the sampling pump has been decontaminated.
- Using new polyethylene sample bottles from Energy Labs in lieu of Certified Clean bottles. Analytical results were compared and found to be similar for both DI blanks using Certified Clean bottles, and for DI blanks using new bottles from Energy Labs. This change will make the Post RI sampling more consistent with other on-going sampling at the smelter, including sampling for the Interim Measures and for the RCRA Facility Investigation.
- Using one unique sample identifier for each sample bottle. In the past, we have used two unique sample identifiers for each bottle. One was a bottle I.D. number and the other was a sample number. This redundancy is not necessary. Sample uniqueness will be determined through sample numbers generated by Hydrometrics' Validation Department.

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If you have any questions or comments on our plans to implement these changes during this November's sampling event, please respond by October 25, 2001. I can be reached at 443-4150, extension 171.

Sincerely,



Garth Block
Project Manager

c: Jon Nickel
Bill Thompson
Walter Crane
Dave Sitch
Bob Miller
Clare Bridge